

Quick Strokes

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Business educators won't let Sue George leave the platform

Teachers and administrators from Arkansas, Illinois, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Missouri were in the audience for Sue George's recent presentation on the comparative merits of two arrangements of characters on keyboards.

Ms. George is an instructor at Portland Community College in Oregon and an expert on the retraining of conventionally skilled operators for work at the Oregon Alternative keyboard arrangement. She spoke at a conference on word processing under the auspices of Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, Arkansas, July 13-July 17.

From her acquaintance with several practical applications in Oregon that are on a sufficient scale and of sufficiently long standing to permit conclusions, Ms. George was able to assure her hearers that the improvement in productivity does, indeed, warrant the costs of retraining.

So many questions came from the assembled teachers and administrators that the speaker was kept on the grill for an hour beyond her scheduled time.

Arrangements for International Word Productivity Contest are firming up

April, 1982, is the planned time for the first of the national finals in International Word Productivity Contest No. 1. Australia will have the priority on those, and the site no doubt will be in Sydney. So said Ronald Watson, general director of the contest, on his way back to that city after two crossings of the North American continent and four of the Atlantic Ocean in May and June, 1981.

National finals in the United States and the United Kingdom will follow, and the world finals will follow those, at some site in England. A \$10,000 figure has been mentioned as the first prize for the international finals, and the organizing committee expects to provide travel expenses for the top-flight contenders.

It would be well, however, for prospective entrants to line up some sponsors of their own as well. The operator's employer, the school that imparted the skill, the vendor of the equipment the entrant uses, and the agency that got the job for the entrant, all stand to gain good will from a star performance.

Three trophies are offered — a Sholes cup, for the winner among performers on the conventional arrangement of characters, a Dvorak cup, for the winner at the alternative arrangement, and a Malt cup, for the best Maltron operator.

Provisions will be made to equalize the opportunities for young operators and for blind ones and those suffering from other disabilities.

Copies of the contest rules may be ordered from Mike Schmitt, 5002 North Monitor, Chicago, IL 60630, USA, or from Ronald Watson, P.O. Box 1593, North Sydney, New South Wales 3060, Australia.

Exidy Sorcerer computer shown

Besides tables where authors could meet agents, the exhibit hall at Mills College, Oakland, California, also had tables around the walls, where word-processing equipment was on view. The conference, under the auspices of the California Writers' Club was held in June, 1981, with Alex Haley as the featured speaker.

D & G Computer Systems, of 4156 Manzanita Ave., Suite 200, Carmichael, California 95608 showed an Exidy Sorcerer computer with a modified Dvorak keyboard arrangement.

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft on tour in U.S.

Environmental protection and job satisfaction are among the topics on which the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, headquartered in Munich, Federal Germany, offers research to its corporate clientele. This puts FhG a stride in advance of some other thought tanks in the field of management engineering and human factor studies.

It is difficult, however, to think of another institution with so broad a scope. FhG has 28 branches in nineteen cities, and each branch has its own specialties.

One of the four branches in Stuttgart, IAO of FhG, sent two of its staff on a tour of the United States in May, 1981. They are Dipl.-Math. K.-P. Fähnrich and Dipl.-Ing. D. Brunner, and their main interest is in clerical productivity.

They asked Quick Strokes to express their thanks to Virginia Russell and Helen Baldwin for their kind assistance. Baldwin manages the word processing for Employee Benefits Insurance Co. in Portland, Oregon. She reports that her retrained operators, switched from the conventional alphanumeric keyboard to the alternative arrangement of characters, improve their net input significantly even before they are able to match their previous gross speeds. She is a past president of the Dvorak International Federation.

Russell coordinates the activities of DIF in the eastern United States. Fähnrich and Brunner met in Sacramento with three more active DIF members, Brad Lessley and Phil and Harriet Davis. It was Lessley who launched the retraining programs at EBI and other centers in Oregon.

IAO is Fraunhofer-Institut für Arbeitswirtschaft und Organisation. The size of FhG's government subsidy is determined by the scale of the contracts it makes with private industry. The funding is distributed unequally among the branches according to how basic their research is considered, nuclear physics being the most basic of all.

The executive work station is expected to find a place in German business and industry before long, although Fähnrich expects resistance from the executives when they face the prospect of a keyboard, a display screen, storage and retrieval, and station-to-station communication. They will start, he says, using the technique of the eagle, circling three times and then plunging.

Adams on TV

Belmont Adams, of Scarborough, Maine, reports, "I wrote to WCBB-TV, offering A. C. Kolb's videotape. They declined, saying it did not fit their present plans; but they countered with a request to come here and interview me for a five-minute segment of a weekly program they call 'Ordinary People.' So they did, and it was on the air at least seven times, so far, in various parts of Maine.

"The point I should make is that TV stations seem hungry for anything new or unusual that their reporters can record with portable equipment. Moreover, this ETV station was most cooperative in being willing to let me obtain a copy and rebroadcast it as long as proper credit is given to them.

"Another station (WCSH-TV, an NBC station) interviewed me a few moments and aired it in December. Included were shots of a class in a local evening school, where one student is using her own SK typewriter."

Quick Strokes applauds these TV initiatives. A phone call to a TV station anywhere may receive a favorable response.

Salomon Bros. bulletin cites Boyd and Etherton

"Highlight", published by Salomon Bros., stockbrokers, of New York, diagrams and discusses the conventional typewriter keyboard arrangement and the one we refer to as DSK. The issue is for March, 1981, and the pages are 7 to 9.

Sources that are cited are the Boyd-Etherton article in 80 Microcomputing, an unpublished treatise titled "The Corfam Syndrome," by W. E. Himsforth, of the Salomon firm, and Time for Jan. 26, 1981.

The Highlight stresses the superiority of the approach to complete alternate-hand stroking which is so prominent a feature of DSK. Hand alternation is perfect on the name Salomon.

"Typists learn QWERTY because that is what business machines use," the writer remarks. "Businesses use QWERTY machines because that is what typists know."

Note, however, that although the linotype never did attain standard status in academic high schools, the printing industry did manage to recruit linotype operators as long as they needed them.

Contented user-operator

The writer of the letter headed "QUERT vs. Dvorak", in Science 81 for August, 1981, page 14, Mr. George F. Baker, is retired after a rewarding career as a teacher, of English, and editor. Starting as a retrainee from the conventional arrangement, he equipped himself with a Dvorak-arrangement typewriter, took a summer course under August Dvorak, and has kept two typewriters with the same arrangement on hand throughout his career. He still swears by it.

The case that he makes for the classic Dvorak digit row is right enough. Unfortunately, the Dvorak movement is confronted with the plain fact that that feature is objected to in the marketplace.

The alternative arrangement which is already a standard in the eyes of the Executive Department of the state of Oregon preserves the conventional locations for the digits and also the pairing of ten sharp characters on five keys — not the same keys as in the conventional arrangement, but with the same pairs in better locations.

Attention researchers and scholars in vocational education

Courtesy of Mary Hedges, business and office education specialist for the State of Michigan Department of Education, we have sample copies of periodicals published by The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, at The Ohio State University, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

One is Centergram, monthly, announcing documents that are available at that address, reporting on research and writing that is in progress, and giving the dates for coming conferences under auspices of the National Academy for Vocational Education, the address for which is the same.

The other is Vocational Educator, semiannual, disseminated to 100,000 teachers, counselors, and administrators and to trainers in business, industry, and labor.

The center is funded by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education of the U.S. Department of Education. It offers honoraria for excellent papers by graduate university students and advertises for scholars to serve as short-term consultants abroad.

Ms. Hedges also sends a sample of New Materials Listing and Information, published by Minnesota Curriculum Services Center, 3554 White Bear Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

Another item is the Individualized Instruction Newsletter, published six times a year by Educational Research Associates, 333 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205. Finally, there is an announcement, from the McGraw-Hill Co., of the Robert E. Slaughter Research Award "to reward outstanding contributions to the advancement of business, office, and distributive education through research."

It is good news that channels of access to the educational establishment exist.

Seminars on data processing and paperwork reduction

The Federation of Government Information Processing Councils has announced a series of seminars on implementation of Public Law 96-511, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Scheduled for nine major U.S. cities during November and December, 1981, the one-day meetings will provide information on the effect of this legislation for data processing managers and computer specialists.

The seminars will be conducted by Robert V. Head and Donald W. Fitzpatrick. Head is a contributing editor of Government Data Systems magazine and has been a fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Fitzpatrick is director of Corporate Information System Practice for Advanced Technology, Inc. in McLean, Virginia.

The seminars will interest government and private sector computer professionals who are interested in P.L. 96-511 and its effect on information resources management.

The Federation of Government Information Processing Councils was established in 1979 to coordinate the activities of the nation's 22 government information processing and telecommunications councils. Dates and locations for the Federation's Paperwork Reduction Seminars are Nov. 4 Boston, Nov. 5 Philadelphia, Nov. 6 Atlanta, Nov. 16 Chicago, Nov. 17 Denver, Nov. 18 Dallas, Dec. 2 Seattle, Dec. 3 San Francisco, and Dec. 4 San Diego.

A more detailed conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on December 2 to 4.

For further information, contact U.S. Professional Development Institute, 12611 Davan Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Telephone (301) 622-0066.

Contact point for the Dvorak Movement

Richard B. Lewis, 564 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos, California 94022, will gladly reply in writing to queries in writing about the movement in support of the better keyboard arrangement. This is a home address, and Professor Lewis should not be expected to take telephone calls or receive visitors unless the calls have been set up in advance.

He is retired from a long and distinguished career in education. He held for many years a professorship at California State University San Jose, specializing in visual aids.

He had been a user-operator of typewriters with the classic two-hand Dvorak arrangement from his undergraduate days until a stroke which he underwent two years ago compelled him to resort to handwriting and to the Dvorak one-hand arrangement. As a two-handed operator, he was able to keep pace with brisk conversation, getting it all down verbatim.

Guinness Magazine is launched

The No. 1 issue of the Guinness Magazine appeared on newsstands in June, 1981. It deals with world records in a lighter vein and in greater detail than the Guinness Book of World Records does. Nothing is said in it about the intervals between issues. Queries may be addressed to the magazine in care of Chapel Book Co., Inc., Suite 102, 70-20 Austin St., Forest Hills, New York 11375.

Business claims a role in improving the quality of life

Saturday Review for July, 1981, contains an article, "Is Business the Arts' White Knight?", by Nathan Johnson, pages 43 to 50, with a lesson in it for the Dvorak movement. The point of it is that big companies are always considering funding for organizations that are not set up for profit.

The Dvorak movement should take heed. We have as good reasons to present to a prospective benefactor as anybody. The alternative arrangement on the keyboard makes our day's work less irksome. How can anybody say that that does less for the quality of life than what the arts do to make our leisure more enjoyable?

Unconventional keyboards for the handicapped

Courtesy of P. C. D. Maltron, of Farnborough, Hants, England, we have a clipping from the Farnham Herald for Sept. 19, 1980, with an account of a small sufferer, Robert, from arthrogryposis. The organization that presented a modified alphanumeric keyboard module to Robert at his school in Badshot Lea, is the Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panels, called, of course, REMAP.

Robert's affliction causes malformation of the arms and legs and makes it very difficult for him to write. The accompanying photo shows Robert with his fingers thrust through a raised wire structure at each end of the keyboard. The purpose of the wires is similar to that of the mask with raised partitions which at least one U.S. company supplies for palsy patients.

Dvorak federation invites enrollment

With a new nameplate reading "DIF Update", the May, 1981, issue of the bulletin of the Dvorak International Federation announces a new executive secretary — Barbara Blackburn, the world's fastest operator — and a list of nominees for its board of directors. The address is In care of Steve Anderson, 468 State St., Room 205, Salem, Oregon 97301, and telephone 503-362-3455.

DIF is a blanket organization, inviting memberships from users, operators, vendors, and teachers — anybody who displays an interest in the better, faster, easier alternative arrangement of characters on alphanumeric keyboards.

One director, Lloyd Burstein, has asked Quick Strokes to give his home telephone, 703-938-6717, as a contact point.

Vendors please note

The 1982 regional conference under joint sponsorship of the California Business Education Association and the eleven-state Western Business Education Association will meet in San Diego on April 3 to 5. The exhibits chairman is Maureen Smith, 103 Columbia St., Newport Beach, CA 92663. The CBEA central office address is Mrs. Lee Thompson, post office box 633, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Business analyst firm examines the Dvorak movement

The Ducon Report, titled "The Dvorak Movement: Problems and Opportunities", was commissioned by Virginia Russell, 11 Pearl St., Brandon, Vermont 05733. Mrs. Russell is vice-president of the Dvorak International Federation, a non-profit educational organization headquartered at 468 State St., Room 205, Salem, Oregon 97301.

The report recommends policies calculated to stabilize the organized Dvorak movement financially and build it into a more influential organization. The authors see a great potential in it but also the possibility of a decline into ineffectiveness.

Quick Strokes

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Philip Davis, publisher

FOR SALE — Portable, Smith-Corona Classic 1200 with case. American Simplified Keyboard. Slightly used. Only \$75.00. Call (215) 545-7220 or write Gaylord Holder, 1420 Locust Street, Apt. 37A, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One", narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate an interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. Sony KCS 20. Per week. \$5. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.



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FOR SALE—Selectric III typewriter, brand new, with Modern Alternate character arrangement, in original carton for immediate delivery. \$1200 firm. Paul Rivera, P.O. Box 641, Tujunga CA 91042, phone (213) 352-4800.

KEEP YOUR QUICK STROKES COMING! Subs for Vol. IX, through March, 1982, are due. Single sub still \$5; double sub, to two addresses or both to one address, \$7.50; quintuple sub, to various addresses, \$10; bundle of 20, to one address, \$28. In California, please add 6% tax.

ASKs ALWAYS ON HAND. Always discount prices. B. W. Adams, 4 Park Ave., RFD #1, Scarborough ME 04074.

Morton kit for keyboard learning is ready

Color Keys (trade mark registered), called "The Audiovisual Communications-Typewriting Skill Development System," is ready, according to a report from R. E. Morton Associates, 1328 West Columbia, Chicago, Illinois 60628, producers of the kits.

Exercises for both the conventional and the alternative arrangements of characters are included in each kit. The learning process is so much faster than in high-school classes that the conventional arrangement is learned as quickly, or nearly as quickly, as is the alternative, according to the associates.